

S E C R E T

31 July 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Staff Personnel

SUBJECT : Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. Czechoslovak Crisis: The critical developments in Czechoslovakia during the past month were the focus of much attention by FBIS headquarters components and field bureaus. Prompt and thorough handling by the Austrian and London bureaus of Czechoslovak, Soviet and bloc radio and press material relating to the Czechoslovak situation enabled the Wire Service to meet high-level consumer requirements for current and comprehensive information. In addition to providing extensive coverage in the Soviet Union and East Europe Daily Reports, the Publications Division issued two supplements, "Materials on Czechoslovak Political Developments," Volumes III and IV totaling 108 pages, of which 33 pages were translated by the contractual facility. Two Propaganda Analysis Division Special Reports supplemented Trends and Survey coverage of the tense Czechoslovak situation. CD. 288, "The Aleksandrov Article in Pravda: Inception of a new stage in Soviet Press on Czechoslovakia," examined the escalation of Soviet Bloc pressures and provided background on Moscow propaganda behavior prior to the 1956 intervention in Hungary. CD. 287 "Soviet Propaganda on the Warsaw Pact: New Stress on the Importance of Socialist Unity," generated by an OSR requirement, included a section on propaganda uses of the Pact in order to pressure the Dubcek regime. In order to provide the best possible coverage of Czechoslovakia following the return to London of the BBC Czech monitor on detached duty at the Austrian Bureau, an agreement was worked out with the BBC whereby the Austrian Bureau now monitors four Prague domestic service newscasts five days a week in exchange for BBC's translating some 14,000 words weekly from Czechoslovak newspapers. [redacted]

50X1

2. Saigon Situation: By the end of June the severe rocket attacks to which the city of Saigon had been subjected during the first part of the month had ceased and the security situation returned to relative normalcy with the curfew remaining from 2100 to 0600. Efforts to have the two bureau monitors who were previously recalled to active duty with the South Vietnamese armed forces released to FBIS on detached service have thus far been unsuccessful. [redacted]

50X1

S E C R E T

Group I  
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

## S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 31 July 1968

3. Paris Talks: FBIS continued its service to the U.S. Vietnam Mission in Paris by way of the direct teletype circuit from the London Bureau. Several requests for special services were filled. The Propaganda Analysis Division continued to provide research and analysis support for the delegation and for the Department of State and other offices concerned with the Paris talks. Services to the delegation included a compilation of North Vietnamese statements made after the Tet offensive which might shed light on Hanoi's expectations of a military victory. [redacted] 50X1

SERVICES AND REQUIREMENTS

4. Wire Service: The Department of State Operations Center expressed particular appreciation to the Chief, Wire Services Staff, for the Mediterranean Bureau's timely coverage of the Iraqi coup flashed by the Wire Service. It noted that this information was well ahead of press service substantive reporting on coup developments. Coup coverage plus heavy reporting on the Czechoslovak situation resulted in a daily Wire Service file of nearly 50,000 words from 17 through 19 July. [redacted] 50X1

5. Propaganda Analysis: A Propaganda Analysis Division Special Report examined the purported record in the Chinese Communist AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION JOURNAL of a longstanding conflict between Mao Tse-tung and Liu Shao-chi on whether mechanization of the Chinese countryside should precede or follow collectivization. Another Special Report discussed Moscow and Ukrainian press censure of a recent Ukrainian novel in terms suggesting concern that the novel had appealed to sentiments of Ukrainian nationalism. [redacted] 50X1

Research services included the assemblage of statements from the USSR War Themes file on Soviet manned space efforts and their stated objectives, for NASA's Office of International Affairs. Research was also undertaken for Organization components and the State Department with respect to propaganda on Middle East developments. [redacted] 50X1

6. Press and Document Exploitation: Linguists of the Europe, Africa, Latin America Division exploited French and Hungarian press sources to obtain current information concerning French military planning, and on new developments in the field of the Hungarian computer production. Exploitation of Brazilian press sources enabled EAD's Latin America Branch to publish a 166-page breakdown of Brazilian Administration, copies of which were sent to the FBIS bureaus processing Latin American materials. The

S E C R E T

## S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 31 July 1968

first issue of the Asia Division's new classified Foreign Press Digest: Communist China Military, Political, and Economic Data containing information from Chinese provincial newspapers obtained from classified sources was published on 18 June. The Division also produced noteworthy Japanese translation involving a 98-page Japanese document of a highly technical nature in the rocket equipment field entitled "Internal Pressure Test of a Large Rocket Chamber in Solid Filament Winding." [redacted]

50X1

7. Special Services: At the request of the White House Situation Room the Wire Service arranged for the Okinawa Bureau to expedite the contents of a special Hanoi broadcast to Presidential Assistant Walt W. Rostow in Hawaii. The Okinawa Bureau supplied Headquarters with five Vietnamese language tapes to be used in an Organization language training project. A 24-page transcript of the interrogation of a Soviet defector received in the USSR Division in the afternoon, was translated and forwarded to the requestor by noon the next day, ahead of the assigned 24-hour deadline. [redacted]

50X1

8. Lateral Services: Following a request made by the Acting Director of Voice of America, the Far East Bureaus began wirefiling all processed material from regional Chinese Communist broadcasts and NCNA Chinese domestic service directly to VOA.

The ASA Field Station in Chitose was added to the Lateral Service List for space launch announcements and material related to space plans and activities. The Far East field bureaus are now supplying Comsubflot Seven, Yokosuka, with all reports on the entry of U.S. nuclear submarines into Japanese ports; and the American Embassy in Vientiane with all Hanoi references to the release of American POW's.

The European, Middle East, and Africa bureaus were asked to laterally service the American Embassy in Tel Aviv with significant broadcast pronouncements by the Arab world heads of state and foreign ministers on Arab-Israeli relations and by the Israeli president and cabinet ministers on any topic. [redacted]

50X1

9. Use of FBIS Material: FBIS material was cited in a significant number of State Department telegrams and airgrams during the month. A Tokyo monitored 3 July Mainichi article regarding the rumored withdrawal of NVN Troops from Lao territory was the subject of one airgram which was highly critical of the article's "distortion of truth," and its possible negative effect on the Paris talks. Another airgram singled out an FBIS-monitored article from the 23 May 1968 newspaper, HAARETZ concerning the Pope's

## S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 31 July 1968

letter to the Lebanese Foreign Ministry on steps being taken to "internationalize" Jerusalem. A telegram from the American Embassy, Lagos, cited an African Bureau report that an "Azikiwe message on a radio Biafra broadcast was a recording of Zik's voice." A State Department airgram signed by Secretary of State Rusk referred to an FBIS summary of a NEUES DEUTSCHLAND article (22 March 1968) in which East Germany "inadvertently" referred to the existence of the Peoples Party of Laos. [redacted]

50X1

PUBLICATIONS

10. New Title: Translation on International Communist Developments, a serial report issued by the FBIS domestic contractual facility, was discontinued on 22 July. A new serial, Translations on Western Europe, will be issued to accommodate basic information on this area, including basic material on European communist developments. All current information formerly published in the TICD will be published in the appropriate area volume of the Daily Report. [redacted]

50X1

11. Page Allocation: An additional 60 pages were allocated to the Daily Report by Printing Services Division effective 8 July, raising the daily maximum to 436 pages. The full allocation, including 88-page Soviet Union and Eastern Europe books, was utilized for the first time on 9 July. In the first week after the increase the daily average for the six area volumes was 398 pages, exclusive of supplements. [redacted]

50X1

12. Wordage Computation: Since the format of Daily Report section headings was revised, the average figure of 560 words per page, instead of the former 530, has been used in computing Daily Report wordage statistics. [redacted]

50X1

13. Broadcasting Stations of the World: Following formal inter-agency approval, the IBM card file for the 22nd edition of Broadcasting Stations of the World has been transferred to magnetic tape in preparation for the computerized high-speed electronic "typesetting" Linotron process with which the Government Printing Office will prepare the new edition. Entries will now be in two column sets per page, thus reducing considerably the bulk of the volumes but in a style which enhances the readability of the information. It is anticipated publication and distribution of the new edition will be greatly speeded by the new process. [redacted]

50X1

## S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 31 July 1968

FIELD OPERATIONS

14. London Bureau: On 27 June the London Bureau processed and transmitted the highest single daily file in its history, 141,000 words. Of this total 52,600 words were produced by the Press Monitoring Unit, which has been steadily increasing its file from month to month. The bureau has supplied the BBC with a revised list of types of information which should be flashed. This list supplements previous guidance and attempts to provide BBC monitors with more specific guidance in meeting FBIS needs. To facilitate expeditious handling of flash material, an intercom system linking the BBC Listening Room, the BBC News Bureau, and the bureau editorial room has been installed. [redacted]

50X1

15. Korean Coverage: The Okinawa Bureau was placed on emergency coverage status from 22 to 25 June in response to a Pyongyang report that a U.S. "spy ship" had been sunk by DPRK patrol boats. Extensive reportage was provided from the overblown treatment North Korea gave the incident. [redacted]

50X1

16. Mediterranean Bureau-BBC Coordination: The semiannual Mediterranean Bureau-BBC coordination meeting took place in Cyprus on 21 June following two days of preliminary discussions between the BBC representative and bureau personnel. Minor exchanges of coverage and coordination during leave periods were agreed upon. It was agreed that the next such meeting would be held one year hence rather than in six months, as has been the practice. [redacted]

50X1

17. Reception Survey: Okinawa cruising monitor [redacted] conducted a three-week reception survey at the Bangkok Bureau and at Chiang Mai in northern Thailand beginning 20 June. The main objective was to obtain observations of summer coverage potential to complement the winter survey and round out the picture of overall potential. Northern Thailand was chosen as the most likely area for reception of reported tribal dialect broadcasts from communist transmitters to minority groups in that country. No evidence was found of new radio stations broadcasting in tribal languages, although some extensions of effort by known stations, both overt and clandestine, were uncovered. Earlier reports had indicated that Radio Peking was broadcasting in the Neo dialect, but the survey appears to refute this. [redacted]

50X1

50X1

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 31 July 1968

18. Broadcasting Developments: Communist world international broadcasting continued to increase its lead over other categories of broadcasters with a midyear total output of over 6400 program hours weekly. During its peak period USSR international services alone now use 80 shortwave transmitters simultaneously. Poland began broadcasting in Arabic for the first time with ten and one-half hours weekly output, from 1 July; BBC is sampling this service. The total of all Arabic-language communist broadcasts is now 216 program hours weekly.

During June, West Coast Bureau placed on experimental coverage a new communist press service being transmitted in English by radioteletype from Tokyo. Called the Japan Press Service (JPS) and controlled by the Japan Communist Party, the one-hour daily transmission, identified as the "JPS World Service," has proven very productive. [REDACTED]

50X1

ENGINEERING

19. Hokkaido Bureau: All Bureau operations were transferred to the new building on Chitose III from Chitose I on 10 June. The Post Engineer construction work is complete except for the paving of the access road and parking area and several minor items. As of the end of the month, electrical and electronic wiring were ninety-five percent complete. Work is progressing satisfactorily on the receiving terminal to intercept press teletype transmissions. [REDACTED]

50X1

20. Key West Bureau: A long-wire medium-wave antenna running from the bureau's main antenna pole to a pole some 650 feet west of the bureau was installed the week of 10 June. The antenna has improved the bureau's medium-wave reception capabilities considerably. The primary television antenna is still in process of readjustment to achieve maximum front-to-back ratio and eliminate interference. [REDACTED]

50X1

21. Okinawa Bureau: The four new family quarters are approximately 99 percent complete. New quarters three and four were accepted for beneficial occupancy and were occupied on 24 and 26 June, respectively. [REDACTED]

50X1

MISCELLANEOUS

22. Customer Surveys: A preliminary evaluation of the responses received from customers for "Developments in Broadcasting and Press Communications," as a result of the survey implemented in March 1968 has been prepared. L & R is currently reviewing the comments solicited from field bureaus, preparatory to conducting a coordinated general survey of Lateral Service consumers. [REDACTED]

50X1

- 6 -

S E C R E T

**S E C R E T**

**SUBJECT:** Letter of Information, 31 July 1968

23. Visits and Briefings: Chiefs of the Hokkaido and Key West Bureaus, [ ] visited headquarters for orientation and were debriefed by headquarters personnel on the operations of their respective bureaus. The Publications Procurement Officer in Hong Kong was also debriefed in Headquarters, giving a first-hand report on the acquisition of special Chinese Communist material by the Defense Liaison Office in Hong Kong, which is being exploited by the Asia Division.

50X1

Visitors to field bureaus included: Col. J. G. Silliman, J-2 of the U.S. Southern Command; Col. G. H. Sills, Chief of the Intelligence Division, J-2; and Col. H. B. Plowman, USARAO G-2 to the Panama Bureau; [ ] Head of the BBC Monitoring Service to the London Bureau Press Monitoring Unit; [ ] Liaison and Requirements Officer to the Key West and Caribbean bureaus.

50X1

50X1

ADMINISTRATION:

24. Passport Information: When advising Headquarters of receipt or renewal of a new passport, please forward the information by memorandum instead of by wire. [ ]

50X1

25. Pen and Ink Changes, [ ]

50X1

50X1

26. Training: [ ] Chief, Operations Group, was detached for training at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

50X1

[ ] Chief, Publications Division, and [ ] Chief, [ ] attended the Executive Orientation in PPB course conducted by the Civil Service Commission. [ ]

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

- 7 -

**S E C R E T**

50X1

S E C R E T

SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 31 July 1968

27. Regulatory Issuances: The following regulatory issuances were disseminated:

50X1

50X1

PERSONNEL

28. New Employees

Assignment

Editor, Publications Division

50X1

Area Officer, Asia Division

Editor, Publications Division

Analyst, Propaganda Analysis Division

Typist, Publications Division

29. Reassignments

From

To

Deputy Chief  
Production Group

Acting Chief  
Operations Group

50X1

Chief  
Saigon Bureau

Chief  
Wire Services Staff

Editor  
Publications Division

Editor  
West Coast Bureau

Watch Officer  
East Coast Bureau

Watch Officer  
Okinawa Bureau

Senior Editor  
West Coast Bureau

Senior Editor  
Hokkaido Bureau

Editor  
Wire Services Staff

Editor  
Okinawa Bureau

- 8 -

S E C R E T



**S E C R E T****SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 31 July 1968**ReassignmentsFromTo

Area Officer

Area Officer  
Asia Division

50X1

50X1

Transcription Supv.  
Publications DivisionSecretary  
Publications DivisionChief  
Europe/Africa/LA Div.Chief  
USSR DivisionWatch Officer  
West Coast BureauWatch Officer  
Okinawa BureauWatch Officer  
East Coast BureauWatch Officer  
Key West BureauChief  
East Coast BureauChief  
Key West BureauSenior Editor  
Saigon BureauSenior Editor  
Publications DivisionChief  
Wire Services StaffDeputy Chief  
Executive Staff**31. Resignations**From

Clerk, Publications Division

50X1

Custodian, East Coast Bureau

Teletypist, Wire Services Staff

Editor, Wire Services Staff

Area Officer, Asia Division

Custodian, East Coast Bureau

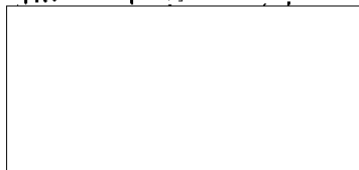
Editor, Tokyo Bureau

**S E C R E T**

**S E C R E T**

**SUBJECT: Letter of Information, 31 July 1968**

**32. Retirements**



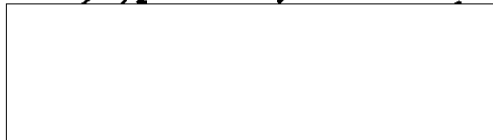
**From**

**Senior Editor, Okinawa Bureau**

**50X1**

**Transcriptionist, Publications Division**

**50X1**



**ROGER G. SEELY**

**Director**

**Foreign Broadcast Information Service**

**- 10 -**

**S E C R E T**